

# ASSHOLEPARADE

**Tell me about the early days of the band. What inspired the lot of you to start a band? Where does the name spawn from? What were some early influences and what was Gainesville hardcore like back in 1995?**

Well, at the time that it was coming together I was in a band with Travis Johnson (Ansojuan, AP) called FRIED CHRIST and we were doing, kinda, JFA style punk hardcore....it was fun and it was exactly what we wanted to do when we moved to Gainesville (start a band) but because the both of us were kinda into the faster stuff we were starting to get the itch to go that direction. So at some point at the tail end of the FC days he started doing ANSOJUAN and I started another band called ASSBACKWARDS....I was really digging the direction that ANSOJUAN was going and I was stoked on A.B. too, but it still wasn't as fast as I wanted, so when Jon moved to Gville to play drums in VANBUILDERASS we met. One day Jon came by my house because I had just printed a bunch of patches and he wanted some. He happened to grab several, but when he grabbed a RUPTURE patch I immediately asked him if he could play drums that fast and he said yea and I would say about 2 weeks later we were practicing.....haha. That was pretty much how it started.... we started hanging out and listening to records and talking about this and that and it just came together.

As far as the band name goes, that is another one that Jon came up with. I think originally he wanted to use it for another band, but we were stoked on it and just went with it. I remember sitting in his room when he asked if I was cool with it....at the time we hadn't even practiced yet and maybe not even talked to Brian or Chris yet, so it was all just us bullshitting with each other about stuff....who knew ???

The scene at the time in Gainesville was awesome, not that it isn't now, but it seemed different to me then than now. One of the main reasons is that THE HARDBACK was still around and on any given night you could go down and hear bands play for really cheap. See all your friends, and drink really bad tasting Miller HighLife (I still can't drink it to this day) It was when touring bands would not even consider passing up coming into Florida on tour. Matt and Drew (both guitar players in AP) ended up taking over when Alan (the old owner) decided he was done with it and it got even more insane....seeing as both of them were deeply ingrained in the Gville music scene. It was just different....anyone that was there will tell ya the same!

**The first record I got of your band was the Ansojuan split which is one of the earliest recordings out there. I love the songs on there and I feel the band carried the sound from that release and polished it to this day. Do you feel you have come a long way from the early splits like this one and the Palatka split, up to the newer EPs and the Slight Slappers split?**

the band has changed a bunch since the first recordings.. I wouldn't say we have come a long way.. but we have progressed.. we are better at our instruments now.. and have better gear or at least access to it.. so our recordings tend to be crisper and sharper, but everytime we go into record its always an adventure.. but the spirit of the band is the same now as it was on the demo.. play fast, sneak a hook or two in there and get out.

**Tell me about the Possessed to Skate comp? It is a widely overlooked record that I had the luck of buying off you**

*fine folks when you played a roller skating rink in RVA for Best Friends Day. How was Spazz, AP, Despise You, Chuck B, and these other amazing bands corralled into one place?*

HELL YEA !!! That show RULED !!! Easily one of the most dangerous shows we have ever played!

Well, lets see...I'm not really sure EXACTLY how we ended up getting on the comp. Needless to say we were stoked to be on it. Back in the day there was a rumor that 97a decided they didn't want to be on it with us because we used the INFEST "break the chains" image and changed it to the "broke the lighter" and they didn't want to be associated with us. I always liked that reason, only to find out years later that it wasn't the real reason. I was bummed.....

**4) AP has always had a huge love for the term fastcore. What does fastcore mean to you guys as a band?**

Of all the "sub genre" terms out there I feel like it best describes what we are going for. FAST HARDCORE "fastcore" .... It's all about cutting out as many syllables as possible....shorter, faster, louder....

**5) Assholeparade was highly active in the 90's. Tell me about the early days of booking a tour. Also I caught word of some border issues and insanity on one tour if you care to elaborate on that (was this the 1996 tour?).**

It was way more expensive to book a tour, that's a definite. You were lucky if you or someone you knew had a dialer to use on a payphone.... It's weird to think about it now, but that's how ya did it. I remember basically it was the same idea of course....All networking...you get a few names and numbers for around where your first show will be (say Atlanta for us) and call them and then they give you a few numbers and you keep calling up the coast...It's way more organized now for sure. The first tours are always the most fun...figuring shit out, what to do and not to do...always a slight sense of uncertainty about your next show.

It seems like we have had a lot of trouble at borders, but I guess I have heard a lot of other horror stories that make ours seem insignificant. Mostly just having to pull out all of our merch and try and lie about what we are doing and all that shit. We made



became more localized?



light up there... doug, who is one of the raddest dudes outside the pit, comes up to me and insists that we carve



the mistake of going though a small crossing into Canada on that tour...many questions, phone calls and searching later we made it through, but missed our first show...not too bad. Crossing borders in Europe in 99 before most of the borders were opened up to just drive through...that gets a little shitty sometimes...lots of machine guns...?

**6) How hard has it been to be a band in the later stages of Assholeparade? Most members were split between Colorado, New York, and Florida but now you are functioning mostly or all in Florida. Has there been an output change since you**

yeah ever since our first european tour in 99 we have shifted into kinda a project oriented band, by necessity and sanity.. when everybody was scattered.. we would have some ideas always floating but once we decided on something, a tour, a record, both.. we would start moving towards that.. that hasn't really changed with everybody back in florida.. it takes us doing a few shows or a specific idea to get rolling.. I feel another good round of activity coming soon.. In one way its been pretty great to work this way as when its on, its really on. We get super charged up about it, because its been awhile.. not only to write new songs play show or record but just hang out with each other, which is something we don't do enough when we are not active..

**7) Tell me some stories about some of the Florida characters, I know a lot of you are intertwined... tell me about your friendships with Spinach (of short-time Assuck fame, and of Worlds fame) and Justin Abare (of Ansojuan fame and NoComply fame).**

man there are so many.. I mean if any one has ever been here for any extended period of time you know or have had to deal with at least one of these people... spinach and tater are great, but don't forget wicks, little wicks, freddie the bastard, just doug, or countless other wild men and women... this is typical of an ap show in town or florida.. we are setting up for show a few months back.. the place we are playing has a stage but its not big... and with five guys and gear its pretty tight... doug, who is one of the raddest dudes outside the pit, comes up to me and insists that we carve out a spot for his wife.. his line was "dude, please I don't want to hurt her again.. and when its on and its on, you know what I mean?" oh yeah we know what he means.. needless to say she got the spot.

**8) Travis, your vocal style**



**has changed a lot since I heard it on early NoComply tracks and the first AP releases through to the newer stuff. Has that been a purposeful change or was that because of natural causes?**

Haha, who knows... I really don't try and do anything different...? It doesn't seem as "snotty" to me anymore really, although when I hear it recorded it still has that "sound" to it... I remember when we played HEADLINE RECORDS with SUPPRESSION in 1997 Jason Hodges told me that during our set Eric Wood said to him "That dude has a high pitch voice for such a big dude!" I always thought that was kinda funny.

**9) How did the Florida emo-violence sound of the 90's affect your more hardcore/powerviolence sound? With friends bands like Palatka, did you guys ever think about moving in that direction?**

I would say not really at all.. the band was already rolling a bit when they started throwing that term around.. the Palatka kids were rad and that was a fun time for Gainesville hardcore.. but ap was a bit different from that crew in the same way that we are different from the new chaos d beat punk thats really happening now.. its nice to have other bands to play with and people to come to shows.. I think thats the best part of having active bands then and now..

We never really considered ourselves a "POWervIOLENCE" band nor referred to ourselves as such. Same with the term "EMOVIOLENCE" that was not our thing....

**10) No Idea Records has been a huge backer of the band, having released almost all of the later material and with Matt working there. Tell me some about their involvement with the band. I've always through Assholeparade stuck out a little bit from the normal No Idea bands but that also made it brilliant that you were releasing records through them.**

I have worked at no idea forever.. and on top of that have been friends with var for a long time.. he is a huge fan of all kinds of music.. I know that the no idea sound is kinda penciled in as the bearded melodic sing a long punk, but if you look back there is other stuff going on.. not that ap sounds like combatwoundedveteran, swarm, holy mountain, palatka or any of the other hardcore bands he has put out but it does show that he is into it.. I think the most important thing for him is the people that are creating the music.. he believes in us and the fact that we are a Gainesville band is icing.. for me personally I get stoked selling records I helped make and I feel very connected to the records.. and var has been great to work with since day one..

**11) Tell me about the Japan tour, your friendship with Slight Slappers, and the split LP with them.**

man the tour was amazing.. it had been a dream of my own and everybody in the band really go there.. much less play shows.. all the people we meet, the things we saw, the food.. everything.. its really overwhelming in every way.. I can't tell you how grateful we are to everybody that helped make it possible.. slight slappers.. what can you say.. there has always been a connection with them, since the fiesta grande show way back when.. it took a long time to get everything together.. but I think the record came out ripping.. both sides.. I am super proud of it.. the shows we played with them over there were rulling.. I really hope we get the chance to repay them on this side of the pond..

**12) What was Chuck Ragan of Hot Water Music's one week involvement with Assholeparade?**

Man, one of the most commonly asked questions.....haha, well after Drew left and before Matt started with us there was a few weeks of uncertainty of who or if we would have another 2<sup>nd</sup> guitar player. Chuck was a friend of all of ours

and I think it was mentioned to him and he came down for a couple of practices....thats about it, I think we made up one song with him but never recorded it. Hot Water Music was going pretty strong at the time and we all knew it probably would not work out with touring and whatnot so Matt stepped in and the rest is history!

**13) Some bands that spawned as side projects of the band blew me away. Are Religious As Fuck or Worlds still active?**

sadly religious and worlds are not active at the moment.. jon, who was in both of those bands, always has a ton of stuff going on.. his latest project, life chain is tearing it up right now.. but by the time you read this he will probably be working on something else.. all of us play in other bands as well, if you nose around little you will probably bump into some of them.. Gainesville's music scene is fairly incestuous.. so that leads to tons of projects that spring up all the time..

**14) I'd love to hear your thoughts about places we had both been together, do you guys have any memories of Best Friends Day (remember the roller skating rink show?), your tour up the east coast with Shitstorm back in 2005 or 2006, and playing This Is For You Fest.**

lets see.. thats alot to remember..

both best friends days shows were great.. the first one sucked for me cause I was deathly ill.. like, I was asleep in the van and they had to roll me out on stage to play.. although the show was nuts.. I do remember there was a line to stage dive.. the second one I remember thinking oh man.. ap usually doesn't do well playing outside in the daytime.. boy was I wrong.. I guess we need to do more shows with the worlds largest nacho cheese pit, the dudes in gwar regulating and 600 kids ready to fuck shit up.. the roller rink show with the waste and suppression? that show.. holy shit.. kidding me fucking moshing to suppression on skates how crucial is that?.. that shit is legend.. except for the dude that stage dived during our set.. skates are fucking deadly in the air.. not cool bro.. not sure the keg beer was the best idea either as by the time the waste play I couldn't stand from being drunk, on skates and the floor was soaked..

shitstorm tour.. it was cool getting to hang with those guys.. miller stole the show.. plus they ripped it up everynight.. it was lame that after we split up the shows got really nuts for us.. but I was stoked to watch them every night..

this is for you fest.. which one? we did a bunch.. the one were the crowd didn't



catch the kid who jumped off the pa speaker, that was weird.. as the show had to stop for awhile as the kid really hurt himself.. watching henry from dove unbutton his shirt and take it off while never stopping his guitar solo was jaw dropping..

**16) Speaking of being that old, do any of you still skate? How has skateboarding influenced the band?**

I know its probably not as punk rock to say this, but I snowboard a lot now. Haha. I still skate too, but not nearly as much as I used to. I don't think any of us do. Skateboarding has always been a big influence and I think it always will be. Skateboarding IS punkrock to me... it's what got me into punk music and the two will always be synonymous to me.



**17) How insane was Fiesta Grande?**

It was an honor to be included for sure. Shit I remember where I was and what I was doing when Chris called me to see if we wanted to play. It was the pinnacle show to play at the time (at least for us) Myself, Justin and Travis had taken a Greyhound bus from Florida to San Fran the year before to see Fiesta so to be invited the next year we were stoked!

I remember being outside Gilman in a van with some of the Cap Cas and Senseless Apocalypse dudes "fueling up" before the show... I literally got out of the van, walked in the side door of Gilman and got right on the stage to play... all in a matter of minutes we were ripping into our first song... that shit was fun. I had bandages and a

cane still from being attacked by a police dog a week or so before the show... We all ate mushrooms after the show and went to a party in Oakland.... good times, good friends, great show!!!

**18) When are you guys going to do a split with Citizens Arrest on my record label?**

Tomorrow...call Daryl...it's on!

**19) What is in store for the future? Any tours, fests, or new recordings planned?**

well we are playing the 305 fest that Roger Forbes and Rick Smith from shit storm set up in July.. pretty pumped on that.. we are also playing the fest here in Gainesville in oct.. we have been talking about doing a west coast tour.. really want that to happen next.. thinking January.. some where around there.. its been too long. (get in touch if you have ideas!) we will probably have a new record by then.. at least thats the dream..

